



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA ANNOUNCES BIOTECHNOLOGY REGULATORY STAKEHOLDER MEETING

WASHINGTON, Nov. 8, 2010 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) biotechnology regulatory services (BRS) announced that it will hold a stakeholder public meeting featuring a “Focus on Transparency” on Wednesday, December 1, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Riverdale, Md.

“This meeting will give stakeholders an opportunity to engage with BRS staff on several critical topics, as well as learn about current improvements and initiatives,” said Michael Gregoire, deputy administrator for APHIS' biotechnology regulatory services.

BRS will provide information and an opportunity for discussion on the following topics: BRS' implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act; usability of the BRS website; review of the Freedom of Information Act and updates on the permit process. If you have any feedback regarding these meeting topics, please submit it to biotechquery@aphis.usda.gov by November 12. Those planning to attend should register by November 19 at: www.aphis.usda.gov/biotechnology/meetings.shtml.

The stakeholder meeting will be held in the Conference Center of USDA Center at Riverside, 4700 River Road, Riverdale, Md. For directions or facilities information, call (301) 734-8010.

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